

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)

The Project

The Comprehensive Program for Persons with Disabilities aims to promote services to all types of PWDs 0-59 years of age and are members of the Self-Help Groups of PWDs.

The program focuses on areas of disability prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities. Moreover, it is intended to enhance PWDs capacity to attain a more meaningful, productive and satisfying way of life and ultimately become self reliant, productive and contributing members of society.

Objectives

General Objective – Improved quality of life for persons with disability through a comprehensive program for persons with disability.

Specific Objectives:

1. Prevent as many people from becoming disabled by:
 - Enhancing their capabilities in the prevention, early detection and management of disabilities and disabling conditions
2. Reduce the handicapping condition of a PWD and arrest the progression of impairment
3. Ensure that PWDs have equal and equitable access to all aspects of life including productivity and employment, education and training, housing, health and socio-recreational activities, and accessibility to political and civil life
4. Promote awareness on the residual capabilities of PWDs to contribute to the workplace and labor market
5. Make the public aware of the problems of the PWDs and the rights to social equity.

Target Clientele

Persons with disabilities are those suffering from restrictions or different abilities, as a result of a mental or sensory impairment, to perform an activity in the manner within the range considered normal for a human being, male or female, 0-59 years of age.

Types of PWDs

1. *Physically Disabled:*

- Visually impaired
- Hearing impaired
- Orthopedically disabled
- Other physical disabilities (cleft palate, harelip which affects their speech)

2. Mentally Disabled:

- Improved mental patients
- Mentally retarded
- Autistic
- Attention deficit disorder
- Attention deficit hyperactive disorder

How To Avail of the Services

To avail of the preventive, restorative and rehabilitative services, the PWD has to go to the social welfare office of the local government unit (LGU) in his/her locality who will conduct the following process:

- Intake interview
- Assessment
- Rehabilitation planning
- Refer clients (PWDs)
- Mobilize resources of the family, community, government organizations (GOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), etc.
- Provision of transportation assistance
- Counseling/casework services needed by the clients with psychosocial barriers
- Implementation of the rehabilitation plan formulated
- Conduct periodic evaluation
- Case closure-when clients' needs are met

Comprehensive Program Services

A. Community Based Services

1. Preventive Services

Disability Prevention Service- through information dissemination on disability prevention, through conduct of services or activities designed to raise the level of awareness of individuals and families at risk on the cause and effects of disabling conditions

2. Restorative Services

Assistance to Physical Restoration Services- a service designed to help PWDs who lacks financial resources to attain maximum improvements of their physical residual capacities to facilitate integration to family and community life through the following:

- Provision of assistive devices
- Referral for medical intervention like surgery for cataract patients
- Provision of counseling services

- Mobilization of community resources i.e. DOH, NGOs and Pos

3. Rehabilitative Services

Self and Social Enhancement Services

- Counseling
- Orientation and mobility training for the visually impaired
- Sign language or survival communication skills for the hearing impaired
- Daily living capabilities training to participate fully in the family and community life

Self and Social Enhancement also provides the following:

- Convention for PWDs
- Participation to skills enhancement training, seminars, group dynamics activities, etc.
- Membership to Self-help Group of PWDs
- Membership to Organization of Women with Disabilities
- Participation to socialization and recreational, physical fitness and sports activities
- Participation to competitions to Abilympics (olympics of work skills abilities of PWDs)

4. Training and Employment Support Services

Services designed to prepare persons with disabilities acquire social and vocational skills in their home or in the community to enable them maintain a suitable (along open, self and sheltered) self employment through the following:

- Assessment of PWDs' potentials, identification of available employment opportunities, vocational trainings, counseling, or retraining of apprenticeship; on the job training or referral for employment
- Attendance to Vocational training offered by AVRC
- Provision of capital assistance through the SEA-K Program for development
- Employment through the Sheltered Workshop
- Limited Financial Assistance while the PWD is applying for a job

5. Access to Information Communication Technology

- A community based service that offers computer and life skills to enable them to become productive and contributing members of society.
- Adaptive Technology in teaching the visually impaired persons
 - Advanced technology course in teaching visually impaired persons in the use of advanced computing concepts and application with screen reader focusing on electronic spreadsheet, internet fundamentals and basic job access with speech (JAWS) software

6. Alternative Family Support Service

- Foster Care Service – provision of a planned temporary substitute care for PWDs who are abandoned, neglected, unattached, homeless and those on custodial care in residential care facilities
- Adoption – a socio-legal process which enables the child with disability, who cannot be reared by his biological parents, acquire legal status wherein Adoption establishes a parent-child relation resulting in same mutual rights and obligations that exist between children and their biological parents.
- Kinship Family Care – provision of planned substitute family care to a child on a temporary basis by a relative when his/her biological parents are unable to care for him/her for a certain period of time.
- Legal Guardianship – socio-legal process providing substitute family care through the appointment of a legal guardian of a child until he/she reaches the age of majority

7. *Group Home Service*

A community-based alternative living arrangement to institutional care which provides homelife environment, designed to provide opportunity for self-care, selfdirection and effective social relationship with fellow residents and members of the community for their eventual integration in the community.

8. *TAWAG (Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal) for Children with Disabilities*

Mainstreaming of 3-6 years old children with disabilities into Day Care Center/ TAWAG Resource Center, children of school age into regular schools or SPED Centers, to respond to their educational needs.

9. ***Family Counseling Services*** - The City Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO) provides counseling sessions either individual or family counseling depending on the needs of the PWDs.
10. ***Parent Effectiveness Service (PES)*** – To further enhance the skills and knowledge of a PWD in responsible parenthood despite his/her ability, he/she shall be encouraged to attend sessions on PES.
11. ***Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities for PWD Fathers*** – To promote and enhance the attitude, knowledge and skills of PWD fathers in performing their potential roles and responsibilities and access to support services.
12. ***Referral Services*** - Includes accessing PWDs to other support services and sustenance from government/non-government agency with related rehabilitation services like physical therapy, occupational therapy, surgical intervention and accessibility to public transport, business establishments and non-hazardous environment.

13. **After Care and Follow-up Services** – Designed to facilitate and sustain integration into family and community life of persons with disabilities who are released from treatment and rehabilitation.

B. Center-Based Services (Residential)

1. **Social Services** – Assist the PWDs adjust and participate in a therapeutic community through a case management plan and provision of appropriate services to maximize the full potential of residents in a residential institution (counseling, group dynamics and group sessions)
2. **Homelife / Group Living Services** – Attends to the physical needs of the residents in terms of providing a maximum home atmosphere through meeting their basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, with a well balanced and organized activities.
3. **Psychological Services** – Provides activities/interventions which aim to assist persons with disabilities cope with emotional and mental needs.
4. **Educational Service** – Provision of opportunities for continuing education of the PWD in cooperation with DepEd/NGOs. Vocational and skills training are provided in preparation for their reintegration to the community for independent living.
5. **Recreational, Sports and Other Socio-Cultural Activities** – Provision of a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities to encourage and motivate the need to participate on the basis of their interests and needs, as much as possible using community facilities.
6. **Dietary Services** – Include the proper and appropriate preparation of menu for residents to promote proper nutrition.

C. Networking And Resource Generation

Involves tapping and maximizing internal resources for GOs, NGOS, NGAs, international agencies to ensure that appropriate needs are responded to.

LEGAL REFERENCES / BASES:

Republic Act No. 9442
Biwako Millennium Framework for Action
Republic Act No. 7277 of 1991
Executive Order No. 417
Executive Order No. 105
Batas Pambansa 344
Joint Circular No. 2003-01
Proclamation No. 125 of 1993
Proclamation No. 240